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SUPPLEMENT TO

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THE MYSORE SEASON AND CROP REPORT.

1905-06.

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GENERAL NOTE. 75

Hitherto three publications were annually issued from the office of the Director of Statistics, viz:—

1. Agricultural statistics for the current year and the previous four years.
2. Outturn of certain selected crops for each year with figures for previous years commencing from 1897-98.
3. Retail prices of some principal articles of food for each year with figures for a number of previous years.

In accordance with Government Order No. R. 778—Agri. 172-06-3, dated 1st August 1907, all these three publications are now published in one volume commencing with the year 1905-06 together with a statement showing the monthly and annual rainfall as Part IV. The figures are confined to the year under report and the previous year.

2. The following is a brief summary of the more important variations in the figures.

PART I.—AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.

There is an increase of 2,640 acres in the total area, (column 2 Table A-1 area according to professional survey) due chiefly to more accurate measurements in connection with the revision settlement operations in the Challakere and the late Budihal Taluks.

2. The total area of the State is nearly 19 million acres, out of which no returns have been received for over $1\frac{1}{2}$ millions. Out of the balance of about $17\frac{1}{2}$ million acres, $1\frac{1}{2}$ million acres are under Forest. It should be explained that though in the explanatory memorandum issued with Govt. Order No. 3473-80—R 1100, dated 6th October 1897, under para 5, Forest means any land classed or administered as Forest and includes also District Forests, yet as the latter are not separately mapped, Amrut Mahal, gomal and kharab lands which under the Forest Regulation and Rules are treated as District Forests, are not shown under this column but in the next column. The rights and privileges of raiyats in the latter comprise mostly of grazing and dry fuel while all other produce is collected by the Forest Department. Thus the area which should come under Forests in column 2 if properly classified would be far in excess of the total, viz., 1,800,000 acres, shown under that column. The total extent of free-grazing and Hulbanni lands being about 4,922,995 acres and State Amrut Mahal Kavals about 418,145 acres as per area return furnished by Districts, the aggregate total of lands really administered by the Forest Department would be very nearly 7 million acres. About $8\frac{3}{4}$ million acres are available for cultivation, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ million acres are still unoccupied, while the total occupied area amounts to about $7\frac{1}{4}$ million acres, of which $5\frac{3}{4}$ millions were cultivated during the year.

PART IV.—RAINFALL.

3. The rainfall during the year was defective, the average total for the State being only 27.37 inches as against 29.69 inches in the previous year and an average of 36.93 inches for the previous 35 years. The year 1904-05 was in itself a year of deficient rainfall and the year 1905-06 was worse. In all the districts except Hassan and Shimoga there was less rainfall than during the previous year. The result of such successive failure of the seasons was disastrous to the crops as explained in the following paragraphs.

PART I.

4. (a) The total net area cropped (Table A-2) during the year 1905-06 was 5,779,850 acres being less than that of the previous year by 146,846 acres or a percentage of 2.4. "Current fallows" (figure in column 5) showed a corresponding increase of about 141,000 acres.

(b) The decrease in the net area cropped was spread over all the districts except Bangalore and Chitaldrug. The largest decrease occurred in the Shimoga District (97,000 acres). Next come in order the Districts of Tumkur (with 45,000 acres), Kolar (with 17,000 acres), Kadur (12,000 acres), Mysore (10,000 acres) and Hassan (4,000 acres).

5. There was a decrease of nearly 45,000 acres in the area irrigated (Table A-2 column 13), the bulk of which (28,000 acres) was in the Shimoga District and the remainder in the Kolar and Tumkur Districts; the decrease occurred largely under areas irrigated by tanks.

6. (a) *Areas under different crops, Table A-3.*—There was decrease under several heads while there was an increase under some. The decrease was distributed mainly as under :—

	Acres.
Ragi	62,421
Rice	43,916
Oil-seeds	27,958
Condiments	25,277
Gram	27,576
Kambu	23,806
Other food grains including pulses	71,724

Total ... 282,678

It may be noted that the decrease under "other food grains including pulses" occurred in all the districts except Chitaldrug; that under ragi in all except Hassan and Kadur; that under rice in all the districts except Mysore; that under oil-seeds in all except Tumkur and that under condiments in all except Hassan. All the districts except Bangalore, Kadur and Chitaldrug exhibited a decrease under gram and all the four districts in which kambu is grown showed a decrease under that head.

(b) There was increase under the following heads :—

	Acres.
Cholam	44,871
Sugar-cane	1,561
Cotton	15,164
Miscellaneous non-food crops (like mulberry, etc.)	30,752

Total ... 92,348

7. *Table C.*—The incidence of total Land Revenue (excluding cesses) per head of population for the whole State, including alienated villages, was Rs. 1-12-4 during the year as against Rs. 1-12-5 in the previous year. But taking only the fully assessed area and the population of that area the incidence works out at Rs. 1-13-6 per head as against Rs. 1-12-8 in the previous year.

8. *Table D.—Varieties of tenure.* (a) There was a decrease of 15,037 in the number of small holdings held separate and direct from Government (the bulk of which, viz., 9,807, occurred in the Shimoga District) though there was an increase of 57 in the total number of villages. The largest increase in the number of villages in which the holdings exist also occurred in the Shimoga District. This large decrease, in spite of the increase in the number of villages, in the Shimoga District, deserves investigation. There was increase of 43,294 in the number of holders or share-holders and the average area of each holding was 6.66 acres in the year and the average assessment of each holding 8.73 rupees as against 6.59 acres and 8.69 rupees respectively for the previous year.

(b) There was an increase of 22,916 acres in the gross area held wholly or partially revenue free and of 804 in the number of holders of such tenure. The Deputy Commissioners of Districts should in future explain briefly the causes which account for variations under these heads.

9. *Table E.*—There were during the year 1,494 transfers of lands involving 3,444 acres by order of Courts as against 1,313 involving 6,027 acres in the previous year. Transfers by private contract or gift numbered 17,014 involving 88,335 acres against 16,374 involving 77,716 acres in 1904-05.

10. *Table G.*—While all the returns are for the official year the returns relating to coffee alone are for the calendar year. The total area under coffee during the year was 101,489 acres against 101,319 in the previous year. Even though the area increased by 170 acres, the total yield decreased by about 50 per cent, being 5,964,544 lbs. against 11,874,735 lbs. in 1905.

11. *Table H.*—The area under cinchona was 112 acres during 1905-06 against 111 acres during 1904-05, but the quantity of bark collected during the year was only 275 lbs. against 3,000 in 1904-05.

PART II.—OUT-TURN OF CERTAIN SELECTED CROPS.

12. Part II contains the area and out-turn in regard to paddy, ragi, horse-gram, cholam and sugar-cane. The total area under rice given in Part I Table A-3 differs from that shown under paddy as given in Part II for the year 1904-05, largely in the districts of Shimoga and Hassan; in regard to ragi the figures are the same in both the Parts and in regard to sugar-cane the difference is very slight; while under cholam again there is large difference between the figures in these two Parts in the districts of Mysore and Chitaldrug. The Deputy Commissioners of districts should in future fully explain the causes which contribute to this variation.

13. (a) In the out-turn of paddy which is the chief staple article of food in the Province for the higher and the middle classes, there was a decrease of about 100,000 khandies which is attributable partly to the decrease in the total area under paddy and partly to poor harvest. Taking the State as a whole, the out-turn was less than 50 per cent of the standard out-turn.

(b) In the Mysore District alone there was an increase of 4,200 acres in area and increase of 153,745 khandies in yield, thus showing that the harvest during the year was much better than that of the previous year. In the Shimoga District on the other hand, though the area under the crop had increased by about 2,900 acres, the estimated actual out-turn went down from 10.7 annas to 7.5 annas of the standard out-turn.

14. Ragi, the staple article of food of the raiyat population, fared better during the year. Though there was decrease in the area under ragi, the yield was better than in the previous year by 254,000 khandies. All districts except Hassan and Chitaldrug contributed to this increase. In the Hassan District, though the area under ragi showed an increase of nearly 2,500 acres there was a decrease in the yield amounting to 22,000 khandies.

15. *Horse-gram*.—The area under this crop and its estimated actual yield during the year increased by about 21,000 acres and 99,400 khandies, respectively. In the districts of Chitaldrug and Hassan there was decrease both under area and out-turn. In the Kolar District there was decrease in area under crop, but increase in out-turn; in the Chitaldrug District the case was the very reverse, there being a decrease in out-turn though there was increase in area. The crop in the Bangalore and Mysore Districts seems to have been very good as in the former the yield rose from 24,130 to 44,083 khandies and in the latter from 86,657 to 160,483 khandies.

16. *Cholam*.—Though there was an increase of 61,000 acres in the area under this crop, the yield was less than that of the previous year by 15,100 khandies. In the Mysore and Chitaldrug Districts where this crop is largely grown, the harvest seems to have been poor as there was decrease in yield though the area under crop had increased.

17. (a) *Sugar-cane*.—The area under this crop increased by about 1,300 acres and the yield by 337,000 maunds of jaggery.

(b) In the districts of Bangalore and Kolar there was increase in production though there was decrease in area under crop and in these two districts the crop seems to have prospered. In the districts of Tumkur and Kadur the case was the reverse, the yield having decreased in spite of increase in area. In the districts of Chitaldrug and Shimoga both the area and the yield decreased. In Mysore and Hassan there was increase both in area under crop and in yield. The out-turn seems very poor in Hassan and Kadur.

PART III.—PRICES OF SOME PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF FOOD.

18. Prices of food grains, namely, rice, 1st sort, rice, 2nd sort, ragi, cholam and Bengal gram, were higher throughout the year as compared with the preceding year in all the districts but the price of salt was lower in all the districts except Chitaldrug where it remained almost stationary.

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BANGALORE,

4th December 1907.